

## **DECISION MEMO**

for the

**Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
Quartz Creek Campground Water Draw  
U.S. Forest Service, Alaska Region  
Seward Ranger District  
Chugach National Forest**

### **Summary**

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After careful consideration of recommendations of appropriate resource specialists, and the requirements of applicable laws and regulations, I have decided to authorize the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (ADOT) to use the parking area and boat access ramp at the US forest Service Quartz Creek Campground to access Kenai Lake to draw water for various state road maintenance projects.

### **Background**

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This use was previously authorized through a nominal effects letter that was issued to the ADOT in both 2014 and 2019. I have decided that it would be more appropriate to approve this use through a special use authorization in order to include enforceable stipulations. The attached stipulations will address all recreation, and resource concerns; and will minimize impacts to the public, their recreation experiences, and the natural environment.

Implementing this decision will assist the Alaska Department of Transportation to maintain roads, and is in the interest of public health and safety.

### **Decision to Be Implemented**

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My decision is to allow the Alaska Department of Transportation access to Kenai Lake from the Quartz Creek Boat Launch, for the purpose of drafting water to fill water trucks. This water will be used for vegetation watering, roadway compaction for grading, and dust suppression on local roadways. This permit will have a term of 5 years.

These activities will assist road maintenance efforts in the local communities. Necessary permits have already been obtained from the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources and Kenai Peninsula Borough.

This decision is based on my review of the project record, including input from the public and appropriate resource specialists.

## **Rationale for Categorically Excluding the Decision**

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### ***Category of Exclusion***

I have determined that this decision can be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment. The selected action is a routine activity within the following category of exclusion found at 36 CFR 220.6(e)(3): *Approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of NFS lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land*. This category is applicable because the land required for these operations is well within the 5 acre maximum.

### ***Finding that No Extraordinary Circumstances Exist***

Based on information presented in this document and the project record, I have evaluated the resource conditions listed in 36 CFR 220.6(b)(1) and determined there are no extraordinary circumstances related to this project. The following resources were considered:

- Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species;
- Floodplains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds;
- Congressionally designated areas, such as Wilderness, wilderness study areas, or National Recreation Areas;
- Inventoried roadless areas or potential wilderness areas;
- Research Natural Areas;
- American Indian and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites, and
- Archaeological sites and historic properties or areas.

### **Public Involvement**

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This project was listed on the Chugach National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) beginning in April, 2020, and will remain on the SOPA until after a decision is made.

### **Findings Required By and/or Related to Other Laws and Regulations**

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My decision will comply with all applicable laws and regulations, including the National Environmental Policy Act, National Forest Management Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and Executive Orders on Non-native Invasive Species and Environmental Justice.



### Implementation Date and Contact

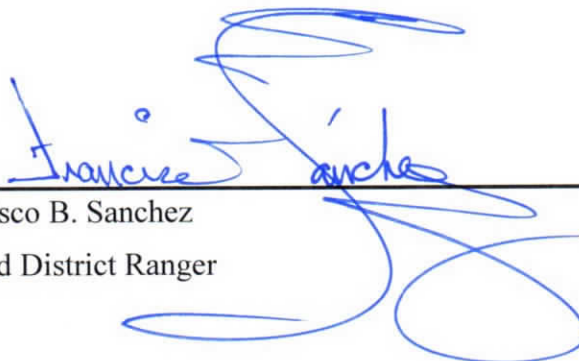
This decision is not subject to the appeal or objection processes. Implementation of this decision may occur immediately. Implementation is expected to begin on or after May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.


For additional information concerning this decision, contact: Monika Adam at email: [monika.c.adam@usda.gov](mailto:monika.c.adam@usda.gov), or by phone at (907-224-3374), or by FAX (907-224-2002).

Additional information about this decision also can be found on the Chugach National Forest web page at:

[www.fs.usda.gov/projects/chugach/landmanagement/projects](http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/chugach/landmanagement/projects).

### RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Francisco B. Sanchez  
Seward District Ranger

  
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Date

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